

## ROUTING AND RECORD SHEET



OPM-11

SUBJECT: (Optional)

Monthly Report -- Bangkok Bureau

FROM:

EXTENSION

NO.

Chief, Operations Group

DATE

May 1988

STAT

TO: (Officer designation, room number, and building)

DATE

OFFICER'S INITIALS

COMMENTS (Number each comment to show from whom to whom. Draw a line across column after each comment.)

RECEIVED

FORWARDED

1.	AC/Ops	32 JUN 1988		<i>[Signature]</i>	
2.					
3.	C/E&PS	4/27		<i>[Signature]</i>	
4.	DD/FBIS	27		<i>[Signature]</i>	
5.	D/FBIS			<i>[Signature]</i>	
6.					
7.	PO/RA	4/29		<i>[Signature]</i>	
8.	SA/CD	6/29		<i>[Signature]</i>	<i>[Signature]</i>
9.					
10.	C/AS			<i>[Signature]</i>	7
11.	C/B&F/AS	7/6		<i>[Signature]</i>	
12.					
13.					
14.	C/AG	7/7		<i>[Signature]</i>	<i>[Signature]</i>
15.	Exec. Reg.				

1 June 1988  
FBIS-3213-88

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director, Foreign Broadcast Information Service  
THROUGH : Chief, Operations Group  
SUBJECT : Monthly Report -- Bangkok Bureau -- May 1988

## I. GENERAL

1. The chaotic runup to Thailand's 24 July general elections dominated the local media during the month, with politicians changing party allegiances overnight, parties seemingly forming coalitions one day and breaking them off the next, candidates exchanging charges of vote buying and foreign influence and money, and even talk of a coup by the Army commander-in-chief. The coup talk appears to be just that, as General Chawalit Yongchiayut, who is also acting supreme commander, apparently made the statement in anger 15 May after a reporter implied that rumors of a "major political change" taking place during the Thai prime minister's Moscow trip 16-22 May were unfounded as the Thai Army had been intimidated by the Lao forces during the recent border war and could not stage a coup because the political forces were keeping them in check. In any event, the resulting confusion has made it impossible to predict who will win the elections, with one embassy wag stating that the only person he was sure could be unanimously elected was the new Miss Universe, Thailand's Phonthip Nakhirankanok.

2. Also in Thailand, a number of government officials were crediting Prime Minister Prem Tinsulanon's 18 May Moscow talk with Gorbachev for Vietnam's decision to withdraw 50,000 troops from Cambodia by the end of the year. Regardless of the reason, the ASEAN countries have received the announced withdrawal with cautious optimism.

## II. OPERATIONS

### A. Monitorial/Editorial

1. At the initiative of Senior Editor [ ] the bureau began filing roundups of rice harvest and procurement reports from the Vietnamese media following pleas for food aid from that country to ward off starvation. AG was quick to praise the initiative, pointing out that there was high-level consumer interest in the magnitude of the problem and what the SRV is doing to overcome it.

STAT

2. On 19 May, Bureau personnel were made aware of just how important it is to file an immediate item even when the subject is another bureau's backyard. The case in point was an AFP item reporting that hundreds of South Korean students were attacking the USIS building in Seoul, which was rapidly filed even though it was felt that Seoul Bureau had probably already covered it from its primary sources. However, Seoul quickly came back with the information that South Korean media had not mentioned the incident and the AFP report was the first they had heard of it.

3. The IBM unit filed numerous items from Singapore following that government's ouster of the U.S. Embassy's first secretary for his alleged involvement in Singapore's internal political affairs. The items included government statements, commentaries, and declarations by political leaders, including one by the president's son, Trade and Industry Minister Brigadier General Lee Hsien Loong, challenging the U.S. State Department officials reportedly involved to a "cross-examination" via satellite TV so that all of Southeast Asia could see what the Americans were up to.

4. The month ended with the surprise announcement by Pakistan President Zia on 29 May dissolving the National Assembly and Federal Cabinet. The bureau then beefed up the South Asian Unit for the President's 30 May address to the nation in which he explained why he had removed Prime Minister Junejo--corruption, erroneous economic policies, a breakdown in law and order, and failure to take steps to implement an Islamic order--and promised to hold elections within 90 days.

#### B. Lateral Services

1. At MOD's request, the bureau pouched a day's worth of the Zimbabwe ZIANA press agency file it had intercepted via satellite so it could be forwarded to Swaziland Bureau for evaluation. ✓

2. At the American Embassy Jakarta's request, the bureau asked Hong Kong to refile a PRC item to it denying any support for the Indonesian communists.

3. And last but not least, following a 6 May request from BBC, the bureau has been filing almost daily reports on the condition of a critically ill Indian film producer.

#### C. Technical

1. In an effort to update the bureau's communications, an extended 300-baud test was conducted on the primary circuit. Although the test itself was unsuccessful, the bureau engineers believe the problems are surmountable and will be conducting further tests in the near future. Since both the primary and alttroute circuits had to be taken down during the test, it gave the bureau the opportunity to try the IDD alttroute with Okinawa. It worked very well, with 75 items being passed error-free.

2. The QEI modems used between the Embassy TCU and the bureau were replaced with Concord V.22 modems at the request of TCU in order to standardize its equipment. The bureau will continue using the QEI's on its ponylines and altroute.

#### D. Cruising

1. HF and ROSET cruising were consolidated at Bang Ping with the move of the HF cruiser from the bureau the latter part of the month. It is felt that with time, the two jobs will become interchangeable for leave purposes and the actual cruising hours can be expanded. The engineers are enlarging the existing cruising room to accommodate the additional equipment required.

2. Two Thai television stations, Thai Color Channel 3 and MCOT (Mass Communications Organization of Thailand) Channel 9, were observed testing on the 60E Intelsat. The two stations will officially begin their satellite telecasts 1 June.

### III. ADMINISTRATION

#### A. Personnel

Malaysian Monitor [ ] and Thai/Chinese Monitor [ ] were promoted to FBN-9 and South Asian Monitor [ ] was awarded a QSI.

STAT  
STAT  
STAT

#### B. Building and Grounds

The landscaping project at Bang Ping was completed. Aerothai has been so impressed with the improvements the bureau has made out there that it has started sprucing up its half of the building.

#### C. Visits

1. On 18 May, Headquarters Thai Analyst [ ] visited the bureau for a tour and briefing.

STAT

2. Okinawa Regional Engineer [ ] TDYed 21-26 May to discuss computer applications and engineering issues.

STAT

3. Okinawa Bureau Chief [ ] was in town on a rest stop 28-31 May as he neared the end of his around-the-world junket.

STAT

[ ]

STAT

Acting Chief, Bangkok Bureau

31 May 1988

TO: Deputy Chief, Chief  
FROM: Satellite Cruiser  
SUBJECT: Monthly Satellite Cruising Report for May

1. Since 24 May, two Thai Televisions, Thai TV Color Channel 3 and MCOT (Mass Communication Organization of Thailand) Channel 9, have been observed testing on the 60E Intelsat at RF's 3880 Mhz and 3915 MHz respectively in left-hand circular polarization with good reception. Both video carriers have a signal to noise ratio of 34 db and a bandwidth of approximately 20 MHz. PAL is the color system used and audio sound is located at subcarrier 6.6 MHz. These two televisions will officially begin broadcasting effective 1 June.

2. Since 3 May, a video feed carrying "WORLD NEWS" programming in Japanese from NHK Paris has been observed from 1800 to 1835 gmt on the 63E Intelsat at RF 4165 Mhz with audio on subcarrier 6.6 MHz. NTSC is the color system used and the video carrier has a signal to noise ratio of 28 db and a bandwidth of 17.5 MHz with right-hand circular polarization. The news feed is believed to be transmitted from NHK Paris to NHK Japan.

3. Visnews London "BBC The 6 O'clock News" news feeds to Channel 10 Sydney had been observed from 3-16 May at 1700-1745 gmt on the 63E Intelsat at RF 4165 MHz with good reception. Color system was PAL and audio at subcarrier 6.6 MHz. The video carrier had a signal to noise ratio of 32 db and a bandwidth of 17.5 MHz with right-hand circular polarization. The newsfeed has not been observed after 16 May.

4. An Italian Agenzia Nazionale Stampa Associata (ANSA) press transmission in Italian and English has been observed since 3 May on the 63E Intelsat on RF 4108 MHz at channel frequency 124 KHz inverted. The teletype parameters are: center frequency 540 Hz, shift frequency 60 Hz, baud rate 50 with normal polarity. The transmission is running in parallel with the ANSA circuit on the same satellite at RF 3928 MHz, center frequency 1072 KHz inverted, center frequency 540 Hz, normal polarity.

5. A Zimbabwe Inter-African News Agency (ZIANA) transmission in English and French has been observed with good reception since 11 May on the 63E Intelsat on RF 3928 Mhz at channel frequency 840 KHz inverted. Teletype parameters are: center frequency 410 Hz, shift frequency 60 Hz, baud rate 50 with normal policy. The circuit is a 24-hour transmission and a channel check service message is sent on hourly basis.

6. Since 3 May, Kabul Domestic Television Services on the 53E at RF 3675 MHz and on the 80E at RF 3875 MHz have been observed to change its transmission time an hour earlier from 1900-2200 gmt with a newscast from 2000 to 2030 gmt. Both services are broadcast in parallel.

7. Since 9 May, the five-tone vft stack formerly located at IF 80.620 Mhz on the SCPC/FM carrier at RF 3775 MHz on the 80E Soviet satellite has changed its frequency to 74.200 MHz. Press Agency transmissions affected are: SPK in French, Prensa Latina in Spanish, KPL in English, TASS in Russian (Cyrillic), TASS in Russian from Hanoi to Moscow, and VNA in English/French/Spanish/Vietnam.

STAT



1 June 1988

TO: Deputy Chief, Chief

FROM: HF Cruiser

SUBJECT: Monthly HF Cruising Report for May

1. Updated schedules for Kuala Lumpur Domestic and regional radios and reported to

STAT

2. Cruised Beijing and Moscow international services for final frequency adjustments for Spring/Summer on 4, 6, and 9, 10 May.

3. Training on computer (PC Introduction) at RAMC 9 - 13 May.

4. Transferred the cruising unit to Bang Ping on 23 May. Reviewed the operation of the ROSET with  while awaiting the installation of the HF equipment.

STAT

STAT